

Levan, I M

Principal, Woodstock Colligate Institute

May 1916
(44)

I. M. LEVAN, B. A.,
PRINCIPAL



WOODSTOCK,
ONTARIO

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May 1st, 1916.

President R.A. Falconer,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear President Falconer, -

I was disappointed at being unable to see you during the meeting of the Ontario Educational Association, though I called upon you, in company with two other Principals, on Tuesday morning. The purpose of our visit was to lay before you a grievance which has arisen in connection with the proposal to grant matriculation certificates on the ground of enlistment for overseas service. Briefly stated, the grievance consists in the decision of the Matriculation Board not to grant Honour Matriculation standing, but Pass standing only. This plan may have been contemplated from the very first; but has only definitely been announced in the Circular (11 B) received about last week. Now, prior to the receipt of Circular 11 B, I had consented to let two of my Honour Matriculation students enlist, thinking that the Board had adopted the policy of giving their standing to all matriculants (honour and pass) who wished to enlist. I drew that conclusion from having received, in February or March, a form for Special Application for Matriculation, which



was "to be filled in and forwarded at earliest date possible to the Secretary of the University Matriculation Board, Parliament Buildings, Toronto." True, on this form, nothing was said of Honour Matriculation, but neither was the term Pass Matriculation used on it, and I concluded that it applied to all who were taking up Matriculation work. Consequently, when these boys applied to me, I assured them that I considered them capable of taking up the Honour courses they wished to take at the University, and promised to recommend them. I fulfilled that promise by sending their applications to the Secretary of the Matriculation Board. Now comes the circular stating that Honour Standing will not be granted; and therein consists the grievance. These boys have enlisted, and cannot return to school (Their names are Fred Hill and Garman Thornton). The first named is a boy of 21 years, quite clever, and fully able to take up an Honour course. He contemplates the Ministry as his life work. Think of the hardship of shutting him out of an honour course when he returns at the end of the war. The other boy, Thornton, is 18 years of age, took Pass Matriculation in 1914, attended here in 1914 and 1915, took Honour standing in Latin, French and English in 1915, and was continuing his honour studies in Mathematics and Science with the intention of writing on these subjects in 1916.

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I appeal to your sense of fairness; are not these boys suffering a hardship? In my opinion they are abundantly fit to receive the honour standing they ask. They have enlisted through a sense of duty; and they thought they were asking merely what the Matriculation Board was prepared to grant. I hope you will have time to look into this matter, and will use your influence to secure for them the honour standing they seek.

Yours very sincerely,
I. M. Levan.

May 3rd, 1916

Principal H. W. Levan,
Woodstock Collegiate Institute.

Dear Principal Levan:

At the Matriculation Board there was a discussion as to granting certificates of honour standing to students but for various reasons it was decided that this should not be done. In the first place the Junior Matriculation certificate is of wide significance and constitutes the entrance to various professions. The honour certificate is not so much an entrance certificate as one giving distinction to graduates and the distinction is in a certain sense comparative. Its value is partly due to the objective judgment rather than the subjective opinion of the teachers who have had most to do with the students. Since, however, the honour certificates are required for entrance into various honour departments in Arts in the University of Toronto and also into the Faculty of Applied Science it was decided to refer the question of standing to the University concerned. Therefore when the students return there is no doubt that those who wish to enter honour courses or the Faculty of Applied Science and who have done the work qualifying them for entrance, even though they did not take the examination, will be favourably considered by the Universities and put on probation so that if they are able to do the work I have not the slightest doubt they will be accepted. There will be no desire to send them back to school. However, I have suggested to Mr. Anglin that it would be well to have

the Principals file with him as Secretary of the Matriculation Board their opinions as to their students in the matter of the status in honours for which they ought to be qualified.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.